



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 20 November 2007

Current Nationwide



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- According to the *Chicago Tribune*, an apparent miscommunication Saturday between air-traffic controllers at a radar facility near Chicago caused two private planes flying in central Wisconsin to pass closer than federal regulations allow. This is the second near-miss error attributed to the facility in less than a week. (See item [12](#))
- The *Associated Press* reported that a group representing the cattle industry filed an emergency request Friday in U.S. district court seeking to block the rule that was set to permit Canadian cattle over 30 months of age into the U.S. market starting Monday. More than two dozen nations suspended U.S. beef imports in 2003 after mad cow disease was found in a U.S. cow imported from Canada. (See item [16](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *November 19, Associated Press* – (National) **Gas prices fall as oil futures waffle.**
Motorists got some relief as gas fell 1.4 cents over the weekend to a national average of \$3.095 a gallon, according to AAA and the Oil Price Information Service. Prices peaked at \$3.112 a gallon last Thursday, and appear unlikely to rise the additional 10 to 15 cents many had predicted while oil appeared to be marching relentlessly toward \$100 a barrel. Crude futures, meanwhile, fluctuated Monday as traders weighed the possibility of an economic slowdown and OPEC production hikes against the potential for surprise supply declines in this week's oil inventory report or an overseas supply disruption

during the long Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

Source:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/19/AR2007111900366.html>

2. *November 19, Charlotte Observer* – (North Carolina) **Pressure prompts review of Duke plant.** N.C. regulators, responding to public opposition, say they will re-evaluate how much toxic mercury a proposed Duke Energy power plant expansion may waft Charlotte's way. Duke needs only an air permit before beginning work on a \$1.8 billion addition to its Cliffside plant in Rutherford County. The N.C. Division of Air Quality had agreed with Duke that an analysis of "best available" mercury controls was not needed because the plant's design meets federal standards. The air agency, which would issue the plant's permit, said this week it will now ask Duke to conduct a more in-depth analysis. Coal-fired power plants are increasingly unpopular because they are leading sources of carbon dioxide, the greenhouse gas linked to global warming. The expanded Cliffside is expected to more than double its emissions to 9.7 million tons a year when it goes online in 2012.

Source: http://www.charlotte.com/breaking_news/story/369247.html

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Chemical Industry Sector

3. *November 19, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* – (Arkansas) **Cleanup of contaminated soil begins at plant.** A cleanup is under way at a transformer manufacturing plant in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, after a hazardous chemical was found seeping from the ground. The effort is the latest in a series of cleanups that have taken place over the years at the Central Moloney plant, authorities said. Officials with the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, who learned of the contamination from company officials and an anonymous complaint made to another state department in September, are investigating and say there are still many "unknowns." The soil is contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). PCBs are odorless or mildly aromatic organic chemicals found in oily liquids, such as those used to insulate transformers. Those who come in contact with the chemical can develop "acne-like eruptions" or, in severe cases, cancer, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, which banned the use of most PCBs in 1979. Department officials say the contamination does not pose a health hazard to workers, nearby residents, or schoolchildren at the adjacent elementary school. Source: <http://www.nwanews.com/adg/News/208170/>

4. *November 17, News 10 Syracuse* – (New York) **Chemical reaction bombs found.** Chemical reaction bombs were found in Utica, New York over the weekend. Police say they found the bombs after several people called to complain about explosions in the area. Local railroad tracks and streets were closed until the bombs were defused. State police were called in to assist.

Source: http://www.news10now.com/content/top_stories/default.asp?ArID=126924

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

5. *November 19, Monroe News* – (Michigan) **Fermi 2 resumes power production.** DTE Energy's Fermi 2 nuclear power plant resumed generating electricity Sunday night after being restarted Friday in the wake of an automatic shutdown. The reactor reached the 20 percent power level needed to spin the electrical generator at 8:16 p.m. Sunday, said a DTE spokesman. The plant was operating at about 55 percent power late this morning.
Source:
<http://www.monroenews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071119/NEWS01/111190035>
6. *November 18, Financial Times* – (National) **Utilities skeptical over nuclear plants.** After three decades without any applications for a license to build a nuclear reactor in the U.S., almost 20 companies are considering applying to build over 30 new plants. In September, NRG Energy of Texas became the first to make an application in 29 years. With electricity demand set to increase sharply, government incentives for early movers, and some environmental campaigners seeing high-emitting coal-fired power generation as a greater evil, the conditions appear favorable for a renaissance of nuclear power. Yet, for all the political enthusiasm, many in the industry believe the nuclear revival will be limited and slow. The chairman and chief executive of General Electric, one of the world's biggest nuclear engineering companies, believes at most a third of those planned nuclear power plants will go ahead. The federal government has tried to win over nervous utilities by combining what were two separate licensing processes for building and operating nuclear plants. However, while the new system is supposed to be an improvement, its effects are uncertain.
Source: <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/8975e03c-9601-11dc-b7ec-0000779fd2ac.html>
7. *November 17, Post-Standard* – (New York) **Nine Mile 2 plant again generating electricity.** Unit 2 of the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station is back online after a 12-day shutdown for repairs. The plant had stopped producing power on November 3 so workers could remove a leaky fuel bundle. According to a spokeswoman, the operation was completed, and the fuel bundle is now cooling in the plant's spent fuel pool. Chemical tests of reactor water done in August indicated there was a leak. Workers had isolated the faulty bundle and kept the plant running. During the planned shutdown, workers also repaired a jet pump and repaired valves in the reactor recirculation system.
Source:
<http://www.syracuse.com/articles/news/index.ssf?/base/news-9/119529392828340.xml&coll=1>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *November 19, GO San Angelo* – (National) **Military contracts for Texas firms.** Texas firms landed major contracts with the Department of Defense during the past several days, according to statements from the Pentagon. Stewart & Stevenson Tactical

Vehicle, Division of Armor Holdings of Sealy is being awarded a \$14 million modification under a previously awarded contract to purchase 38 OCONUS field service representatives. L-3 Communications, Link Simulation & Training won a \$13.5 million modification to a previously awarded contract to exercise an option for up to 2,000 flight instructor hours on a Boeing 737 Next Generation Aircraft to serve as an E-6B in-flight trainer. Work will be performed at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. L-3 Communications Corp. of Arlington won a \$45 million modification to a previously awarded contract to exercise an option for aircraft depot repairs and aircraft engine depot repairs, consumables and line replaceable unit supply support. Valero Marketing & Supply Co. of San Antonio was awarded a \$180 million contract for fuel. Raytheon Co. of McKinney was awarded a delivery order amount of \$11 million as part of an \$800 million contract for common sensors for the Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter-70A and Extended Range/MP Unmanned Aerial Vehicle. For a complete list of contract recipients, please click on the link below.

Source: <http://gosanangelo.com/news/2007/nov/19/military-contracts-for-texas-firms/>

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *November 19, ABC News* – (National) **Avoiding advance fee loan scams.** The Better Business Bureau (BBB) is warning consumers that an “advance-fee loan” scam is back in a big way. The BBB says consumers across the country have filed complaints about a Chicago-based outfit. The complaints allege that the company requested up-front fees ranging from \$700 to \$2,775 in exchange for loans. The consumers sent in their money, but not one of them received a loan. The advance-fee loan scam targets the unemployed, the poor, and people with bad credit. The ads appear in newspapers, on telephone poles and the Internet. It is actually illegal to guarantee somebody a loan in exchange for a fee. However, sometimes the advance-fee loan is a mortgage and that can be confusing. The key is that the scammers want the money in advance. Normally, most fees associated with mortgages are not paid until closing. If consumers are still not certain whether the offer is legitimate, they should contact their state or county consumer affairs office or the Better Business Bureau for guidance.

10. *November 19, Kentucky Court of Justice* – (Kentucky; National) **Kentucky Court Of Justice warning citizens about potential jury-duty scam.** The Kentucky Court of Justice is asking citizens to be on alert about a jury-duty scam intended to result in identity theft of its targets. A scammer posing as a state or federal court official has been calling individuals to tell them that a warrant is out for their arrest because they failed to report for jury duty. When a citizen says that he or she did not receive a jury-duty notice, the scammer asks for a Social Security number and date of birth to verify the citizen’s claim so they may cancel the warrant. The scammer may also ask for a credit card number after offering to clear up the problem by charging a fine to the card. “If you get a call from someone with this story or one like it, you should immediately end the call without providing any personal information,” said the general counsel for the Administrative Office of the Courts in Frankfort, Kentucky. This jury-duty scam is not

new, but there has apparently been a resurgence of it as of late. Officials in several states have recently issued public warnings through the media about the scam after receiving reports that citizens in their area were called by scammers. Citizens should contact their local law enforcement agency if they receive a phone call they believe could be related to this scam.

Source:

http://www.allamericanpatriots.com/48737590_kentucky_kentucky_court_justice_warning_citizens_about_potential_jury_duty_scam_identity_th

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Transportation Sector

11. *November 19, Rebel Yell, University of Nevada* – (Nevada) **Bomb scare shuts down Maryland Parkway.** A suspicious package shut down Maryland Parkway in Las Vegas, Nevada, and forced dozens of area employees and students from the area early Thursday. The package, which was left inside of the Wells Fargo bank branch located across from University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) on Maryland Parkway, closed the road and sent employees of the bank and other surrounding businesses to the Student Union while members of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police ARMOR investigated. According to the Metro spokesperson, an unidentified Asian man walked into the bank, left a bag inside of the bank and left. A bank teller noticed the bag and called authorities, who evacuated the bank and the surrounding area. Metro's ARMOR team dispatched an investigative robot into the building and determined that the package posed no threat to the public and Maryland Parkway reopened to traffic and businesses.

Source:

<http://www.unlvrebelyell.com/article/2007/11/19/bomb-scare-shuts-down-maryland-parkway/>

12. *November 18, Chicago Tribune* – (Wisconsin) **Another mid-air close call.** An apparent miscommunication between air-traffic controllers led to a close call between two private planes flying in central Wisconsin, marking the second error in less than a week attributed to a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) radar facility near Chicago, officials said Sunday. The controller error on Saturday allowed the two aircraft to come within 500 feet of each other as one plane was landing and the other had just taken off from a different airport in an area about 30 miles southwest of the Wisconsin Dells. FAA safety regulations require at least 1,000 feet of vertical separation and at least 5 miles laterally between aircraft. The lateral distance between the two planes was 2.8 miles at the closest point, a FAA spokesman said. It was not immediately known how many people were on board the planes or if the pilots were aware of the situation when they passed each other at about 3,800 feet above the ground, officials said. Following the incident, the president of the air-traffic controllers union at Chicago Center said new procedures are needed to erase uncertainties about how big an area to block near an airport when a request is issued about clearance for an airplane's departure. He said the area of the Chicago Center facility where Saturday's controller error occurred is supposed to be staffed with 11 fully certified controllers. Actual staffing at the time was 9 controllers and 3 controller-trainees, he said.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/services/newspaper/printedition/monday/chinearmiss19nov19,0,7139202,print.story>

13. *November 18, Associated Press* – (New York) **Tunnel breakdown snarls Northeast trains.** Damage to overhead electrical wires halted train traffic on the Northeast rail corridor for hours Sunday, delaying trains arriving at New York's Penn Station from Philadelphia and Boston. More than 24 trains carrying an estimated 17,000 riders were affected.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20071119/ap_on_re_us/train_service_suspended;_ylt=AikpM8fBx049xqdWqyurn1hvzwcF

14. *November 18, The Times-Picayune* – (Louisiana) **I-10 gas leak won't be capped until mid-week.** The Louisiana State Police announced that a natural gas leak that prompted the closure of Interstate 10 last week probably cannot be capped off until Wednesday. I-10 was closed Thursday afternoon because of the leak, which occurred when an energy company was drilling a new well. State police are urging motorists traveling through the area this holiday week to plan for delays and leave early. Those involved in an accident in the area, should pull off the road to avoid other traffic backups.

Source:

http://blog.nola.com/times-picayune/2007/11/i10_gas_leak_wont_be_capped_un.html

15. *November 18, KGET 17* – (California) **Crews investigate train derailment.** Hazmat crews are investigating a train derailment near Tehachapi Creek, California, which took place on Saturday north of Highway 58 and west of Hart Flat. No passengers were on the train, but officials said it could be leaking hazardous material. Investigators say the train, which was carrying hazardous material, was heading east when the last 22 cars derailed. Investigators say there are no apparent leaks. No injuries were reported.

Source:

http://www.kget.com/news/local/story.aspx?content_id=4919333c-d76a-4290-8379-366248604fc5

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to Report

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Agriculture and Food Sector

16. *November 19, Associated Press* – (International) **New US-Canada cattle trade upsets some.** United Stockgrowers of America filed an emergency request Friday in U.S. District Court in South Dakota for a temporary restraining order to block the rule that was set to permit Canadian cattle over 30 months of age into the U.S. market starting Monday. No one is certain how the decision will affect U.S. ranchers or foreign markets,

which have yet to fully recover from the discovery of an infected cow in 2003. In May 2003, the United States closed the border to cattle imports from Canada after an Alberta cow was confirmed with mad cow disease, known scientifically as bovine spongiform encephalopathy. More than two dozen nations suspended beef imports from the U.S. after a cow in Mabton, Washington, tested positive for the disease in December 2003. The cow's origins were later traced to Canada. In the wake of the discovery, the value of U.S. beef exports fell from \$3.855 billion in 2003 to \$807 million in 2004. That number rose to \$1.9 billion through the first nine months of 2007, but the market has not regained all the ground it lost. There is concern that the new rule will adversely affect ongoing attempts to convince Asia to reopen the beef markets it closed following the 2003 incident.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gE6ljRKwTSxkgc7FUVI7K4UYPEmAD8T0M0N81>

17. *November 18, USA TODAY* – (National) **Loophole keeps FDA in the dark on tainted food imports.** Food import inspection lab operators told *USA Today* that, although labs find food contamination in at least 10 percent of tests, they do not send failing test results to the FDA if importers instruct them not to. The FDA is aware of this, but there is no regulation requiring labs to send all tests to the agency. Some lab operators say the loophole puts the public at risk and forces labs to sacrifice full disclosure in order to retain their importer clients. The loophole does not necessarily allow bad food to reach market. There is concern that unscrupulous importers who get bad test results from one lab will hire another lab to test the food, get a passing result and give only that to the FDA. The agency would then likely give the food a green light for sale in the USA. The foods being tested by the private labs face a much higher hurdle. The FDA has put them on “import alert” because they have a history of safety violations. Foods on import alert are automatically detained by the FDA, and they are not cleared for sale unless the importer proves them safe – typically by hiring private labs to test the products.

Source:

http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/food/2007-11-18-private-labs-food-safety_N.htm

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Water Sector

18. *November 17, Associated Press* – (Georgia) **Biologists: Water can stay in Ga. lake.** On November 16, federal biologists signed off on a plan to reduce the flow of water from Lake Lanier, the main water source for Atlanta and the focal point of a three-state dispute as the Southeast contends with a historic drought. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service decided that federally protected mussels can live with less water from Lanier, which could allow drought-stricken Georgia to keep more water in the drying lake. The fast-growing Atlanta region relies on the lake for drinking water. But power plants in Florida and Alabama depend on healthy river flows, as do farms, commercial fisheries, industrial users and municipalities. The corps also is required to release adequate flows to ensure habitats for species protected by the Endangered Species Act, such as mussels.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iYOMIAzXREFVjcYtNagkheasCXwAD8SUTJ801>

19. *November 16, Associated Press* – (Georgia) **Atlanta may have to drink the dregs.**

With drought tightening its grip on the Southeast, the Atlanta area's reservoirs are almost down to the dregs -- the dirtier, more bacteria-laden water close to the bottom -- and it is going to require more aggressive and more expensive purification. Some communities are buying stronger water-treatment chemicals and looking into other measures to make the water drinkable. The problem is that the water levels on Lakes Lanier and Allatoona, the main sources of water for metropolitan Atlanta's 5 million residents, have descended almost to the "dead zone," a layer low in oxygen and high in organic material. Even with standard treatment, the water at that level can have a strong odor, taste and color. State officials consider the water "suspect" at best. The dropping of the water levels into the dead zone will not have a major effect on the city of Atlanta, because it does not draw its water straight from Lake Lanier, but from the Chattahoochee River, which is fed by Lanier. By the time Atlanta takes its water from the Chattahoochee, it has circulated and been exposed to more oxygen, and is thus not as dirty. The booming northern suburbs, however, draw their water directly from the lakes.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20071116/ap_on_re_us/drought_dregs

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

20. *November 18, Forbes.com* – (National) **FDA orders seizure of eyelash enhancer.**

12,682 applicator tubes of Age Intervention Eyelash were seized Friday, after officials from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration determined it could dangerously increase pressure inside the eye. The tubes contained an adulterated form of bimatoprost, and the FDA said in a news release that the product's ingredients are unregulated and illegal. According to the FDA, patients already taking a prescription dose of bimatoprost may be in danger of optic nerve damage if they use the eyelash enhancer. They also said using the unregulated cosmetic could cause macular edema (swelling of the retina) and uveitis (inflammation in the eye). The value of the seized material was about \$2 million.

Source:

<http://www.forbes.com/forbeslife/health/feeds/hscout/2007/11/18/hscout610175.html>

Government Facilities Sector

21. *November 19, Baltimore Sun* – (Maryland) **Biodefense lab causing qualms.** As

construction continues on a new \$1 billion biodefense research center at Fort Detrick, Maryland, local residents are questioning the risk of expanding laboratories working with dangerous disease in the midst of the densely populated Frederick community. At the behest of one of its members, the Board of County Commissioners plans to give the public a chance to air its concerns at a forum on Monday night at Frederick City Hall.

The National Interagency Biodefense Campus has been in the works since 2002, when the Bush administration and Congress called for concentrating various federal agencies' biological agent research at Fort Detrick, where such work has been done for years. Studies have been prepared over the past four years of the environmental impact of the different portions of the center, which will be grouped on about 200 acres of the 1,200-acre installation on the northern end of the city. The Army's environmental study concluded that risks to the surrounding community from expanding the work with dangerous organisms would be "negligible" because of safety measures designed into the buildings and precautions followed by the workers. But last month, the Government Accountability Office warned that there would be increased risks of an accident or terrorism associated with the proliferation of government, university and private labs set up to handle virulent pathogens. Some Frederick residents, pointing to similar lawsuits pending in Massachusetts against a biosafety lab at Boston University, want the county to go to court to block construction, arguing that the federal government did not give adequate consideration to building the new labs somewhere less populated.

Source:

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/bal-te.md.detrick19nov19,0,1939796.story>

22. *November 17, KOB 4* – (New Mexico) **Anthrax scare at UNM.** More than 20 lab workers at the University of New Mexico were forced to take antibiotics after a lab rabbit at the school died of anthrax this week. Officials said the rabbit had a strain of anthrax that occurs naturally in soil. The state's health department and CDC are trying to ascertain the source of the anthrax. The precautions were taken as a preventative measure, and UNM is stressing that there is no danger to the public.

Source: <http://kob.com/article/stories/S260116.shtml?cat=520>

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Emergency Services Sector

23. *November 18, San Francisco Chronicle* – (International) **Israel offers U.S. doctors training in emergency response.** 30 American doctors recently participated in a grueling five-day course in emergency medicine hosted by Israeli civilian hospitals and military medics. On one day, the group visited the Israel Center for Medical Simulation, a state-of-the-art training center for emergency medicine at the Sheba Hospital in Tel Hashomer near Tel Aviv. After each exercise, which was carried out using real equipment on electronic mannequins that breathed and spoke to them, the U.S. doctors watched a video playback and received feedback from Israel's top medical trainers. "A lot of these things are not available in the United States. A lot of the medicine is different," said one of the U.S. doctors. "They're up on the cutting edge of the latest technology," he said. As an example, he held a color-coded auto-injector that Israeli citizens use in case of a chemical weapons strike. Every Israeli is issued a gas mask and an auto-injector the size of a marker pen: white for age 10 and older, orange for age 2 to 10 and green for children under 2. The auto-injectors contain carefully calibrated doses of atropine and TMB4 that restimulate enzymes knocked out by nerve gas – a cocktail that has not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration and unavailable in the U.S. Among numerous other techniques, the U.S. doctors were also introduced to Israeli

strategies to deal with a sudden influx of people wounded in a mass-casualty disaster. Without planning, a rush of patients can paralyze a hospital, tying up vital equipment, Israeli doctors said. This was the 10th training course organized by the American Physicians' Fellowship for Medicine in Israel. The group's vice president said more than 400 American doctors have acquired skills they can use back home. "Israel has the best system of dealing with mass casualty incidents. They have the world's finest expertise in these issues," he said. "People are trying to achieve the same level of training that they have here."

Source:

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/11/18/MN66T9B6P.DTL&feed=rss.news>

24. *November 18, The Record* – (New Jersey) **First responders get bar-coded IDs for times of chaos.** Monvale, New Jersey has decided to provide ID cards to all its emergency services workers under Bergen County's First Responder Identification Card program. The county initiative provides a standardized identification system to participating municipalities. "We just want to make sure that all the first responders have some kind of ID, because we have expanded emergency management programs," said a councilman. "So this is going to be a universal ID system that identifies everybody who's certified, qualified and able to be a first responder." He said the borough joined the project last week. More than 40 municipalities are now involved, and about 3,000 cards have been issued, said a Bergen County spokeswoman. The \$500,000 program was funded by the federal Department of Homeland Security, she added. "These cards allow us to have more control of who is going in and out of an emergency site, whether it's a municipal official, fire or police department," she said. A representative of the Bergen County Office of Emergency Management said the universal ID cards are needed because of the county's many municipalities: "With 70 towns, 69 fire departments, 73 police agencies and 65 ambulance corps, we had no way to verify if someone was a first responder before this program." "In this day and age, with terrorism potential, it's really needed," the borough administrator said of the program. "Anybody, including a terrorist, can identify themselves as a first responder. But with this ID card, they will know that you are legitimate."

Source:

<http://www.northjersey.com/page.php?qstr=eXJpcnk3ZjczN2Y3dnFlZUVFeXk0NSZmZ2JlbDdmN3ZxZWVFRXl5NzIyMzMzMzY5cmlyeTdmNzE3Zjd2cWVlRUV5eTI=>

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Information Technology

25. *November 18, Computerworld* – (National) **Mozilla to fix 9-month-old Firefox bug as concerns grow.** Mozilla Corp. will patch Firefox against a nine-month-old protocol handler bug, its chief security executive announced Friday, after researchers demonstrated that the vulnerability was more serious than first thought. The bug is another uniform resource identifier (URI) protocol handler flaw, and the news of an impending fix comes on the heels of Microsoft patching Windows to repair problems in the handlers it registers. Protocol handlers – "mailto:" is among the most familiar -- let

browsers launch other programs such as an e-mail client through commands embedded in a URL. But Firefox's jar: protocol handler (the ".jar" extension stands for Java ARchive, a Zip-style compression format) does not check that the files it calls are really in that format. Attackers can exploit the flaw by uploading any content -- malicious code, for example, or a malformed Office document -- to a Web site, then entice users to that site and its content with a link that includes the jar: protocol. Because the content executes in the security context of the hosting site, if that site (e.g., a commercial photo-sharing service) is trusted, then the malicious code runs as trusted within the browser, too. This cross-site scripting vulnerability was discovered in February and reported to Mozilla's Bugzilla database early that month. But over the last two weeks, two more researchers demonstrated the danger of the vulnerabilities -- one of which allowed the researcher to access another user's Gmail contacts list -- leading Mozilla to take action. According to Mozilla's head of security strategy, the vulnerabilities "will be addressed in Firefox 2.0.0.10, which is currently in testing." Until Mozilla patches the browser, users can block jar:-based cross-site scripting attacks with the newest version of NoScript.

Source:

<http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9047658&pageNumber=1>

26. *November 17, IDG News Service* – (National) **Senate OKs restitution for cybercrime victims.** The U.S. Senate has passed a bill that would allow victims of online identity theft schemes to seek restitution from criminals and expands the definition of cyberextortion. The Senate passed the Identity Theft Enforcement and Restitution Act by unanimous consent last week. The bill allows victims of identity theft to seek restitution for the time they spend to fix the problems. The bill would allow prosecutors to go after criminals who threaten to take or release information from computers with cyberextortion, and it would allow prosecutors to charge cybercriminals with conspiracy to commit a cybercrime. Current law only permits the prosecution of criminals who seek to extort companies or government agencies by explicitly threatening to shut down or damage a computer. The bill would also make it a felony to use spyware or keystroke loggers to damage 10 or more computers, even if the amount of damage was less than US\$5,000. In the past, damage of less than \$5,000 was a misdemeanor. The legislation, among other things, would also allow the federal prosecution of those who steal personal information from a computer even when the victim's computer is in the same state as the attacker's computer. Under current law, federal courts only have jurisdiction if the thief attacks from another state.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/pcworld/20071117/tc_pcworld/139757;_ylt=AjUvZd8x3m8PXfqjIdKHSEwjTBAF

27. *November 16, Computerworld* – (National) **Storm botnet spreading malware through GeoCities.** Storm, the botnet-building Trojan horse, has come up with another twist to dupe users into infecting their PCs with malware, a security researcher said Friday. Longtime clients of the Russian Business Network (RBN), a notorious hacker- and malware-hosting network that mysteriously vanished last week after shifting operations

from St. Petersburg, Russia, to Shanghai are involved in the attack, said Trend Micro Inc.'s network architect. Thursday, Trend watched as existing bots controlled by Storm were seeded with new spam templates that included links to sites on GeoCities, the free Web hosting service owned by Yahoo Inc. Friday, Storm kicked off the new attacks. "This has developed into a full-fledged attack vector," he said. The GeoCities sites are infected with malicious JavaScript code that redirects the user's browser to secondary URLs hosted in Turkey, he said. The Turkish URLs, meanwhile, try to persuade the user to download a new codec that is supposedly necessary to view images on the GeoCities sites. According to Trend Micro's analysis, the bogus codec -- which claims to be for the 360-degree IPIX format -- is actually an identity- and information-stealing piece of malware. Fake codecs have become the latest choice of hackers, with several notable attacks recently relying on users' naiveté about what a codec is, why it might be necessary and why they can be untrustworthy.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9047483&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

28. *November 19, Associated Press* – (Iowa) **Rogue cell phone dials 911 - again, and again and again.** A rogue cell phone is not accepting calls, but it sure likes to dial 911 operators in eastern Iowa. Operators at the Black Hawk County Consolidated Communications Center said that they received about 400 calls from the same cell phone last week and that no one seems to be on the other line. "It will ring in, and it's an open line. Sometimes it rings in and drops off," said a dispatcher. Officials can't locate the phone but have figured out that it is an old line not currently associated with a cell phone provider. Such phones, once charged up, can still place 911 calls under Federal Communications Commission rules set in 1994. The cell phone can't receive calls, and emergency workers haven't been able to track the owner through service records, either. "With this, we are pretty helpless," said the center's administrative supervisor. Officials are suspicious that it could be a prank - but they say it is not funny and potentially dangerous. Until the source of the calls is found or they stop, dispatchers still have to answer every call just in case someone is on the line with an emergency.

Source: <http://www.azcentral.com/offbeat/articles/1119roguecell19-ODD.html>

29. *November 19, Multichannel News* – (California) **Handling California's wildfires.** Cable-system operators needed to keep in touch with widely dispersed, evacuated customers during recent wildfires in California. Service providers also had to assist

neighborhoods in recovery efforts. They responded with an assortment of quick actions. Time Warner Cable's L.A. South division contacted a local Rent-A-Center, which donated six big screen televisions to deliver video service at the National Orange Show Grounds in San Bernardino. A "Surf Shack" vehicle, normally used to market video, data and phone services, provided communications services to 3,000 evacuees. Charter Communications culled billing records to send a targeted e-mail to ZIP codes in Lake Arrowhead. Displaced residents could log onto charter.net from anywhere and find out when service had returned and to check billing credits. When fires cut off video and Internet service from its backbone on one side of a mountain, Internet service was routed through telephone cables on the other side. Time Warner Cable in San Bernardino also provided broadcast signals via the Charter phone lines. Cox Cable Orange County quickly wired the El Toro High School evacuation center. Phone numbers of destroyed homes were reserved for 18 months, for families who had to rebuild or repair homes. E-mail addresses will also be maintained. Forwarding of calls to cell phones was made free, for the displaced. Cox also wired eight evacuation centers in San Diego, offering free long-distance calls to fire victims to the U.S. and Mexico.

Source: <http://postproduction.digitalmedianet.com/articles/viewarticle.jsp?id=236836>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

30. *November 19, Capital News 9* – (New York) **47 sent to hospital after carbon monoxide leak at restaurant.** Fire investigators in Queensbury, New York, said a water heater in the basement of the Log Jam Restaurant was not ventilating properly and caused a carbon monoxide leak that sickened forty-seven people. Paramedics were called to the restaurant Sunday after a customer fainted. They said it did not take long before they realized others were showing symptoms. Of the forty-seven people who were sent to the hospital, two were flown to New York City. While most have been treated and released, it is unclear how many are still hospitalized

Source: <http://edition.cnn.com/2007/TECH/ptech/11/19/rogue.cell.phone.ap/>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

31. *November 18, Associated Press* – (Washington) **Human waste plagues Lake Roosevelt, other outdoor destinations.** The Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area in Washington is 129 miles of watery beauty that is becoming a giant outdoor toilet. The National Park Service is studying ways to stop people from defecating along the shores of the lake, which is the long, thin reservoir behind Grand Coulee Dam. "It's the greatest threat to the health and vitality of the recreation area," said the superintendent of Lake Roosevelt. "A lot of people are completely disgusted by this issue." The problem is that more than 1 million people a year visit the lake, which has relatively few bathrooms. Most of them are boaters who venture far from campgrounds. Rather than using portable toilets, which the service has required since 2000, too many visitors are doing their business right on the sandy beaches, she said. Human waste is heavily contaminated

with bacteria and poses numerous health risks, which also makes cleanup a difficult issue for park service employees. Because of the health concerns, park maintenance people cannot be routinely ordered to clean up human waste.

Source: http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/6420ap_wst_fouling_lake_roosevelt.html

32. *November 16, Howell Times* – (New Jersey) **9-11 Memorial vandalized for the third time this year.** A 9-11 memorial in Howell, New Jersey, has repeatedly been targeted by vandals since it was built six years ago. The most recent incident occurred last week with the destruction of several religious articles, American flags and the theft of several donated items traditionally found at memorial sites, such as stuffed animals. Police suspect juveniles were most likely responsible for the criminal acts of mischief, the third such incident of vandalism in the past year. The first incident of vandalism occurred in January when solar lights were stolen and destroyed. The lights ended up in broken pieces found on a neighbor's lawn. Later incidents involved another theft of lights and other donated items, and the destruction of religious items, such as ceramic angels.

Source: http://howelltimes.micromediapubs.com/news/2007/1116/Front_page/001.html

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Dams Sector

33. *November 18, Times-Picayune* – (Louisiana) **Corps ‘mistake’ is no mistake after all.** On November 16, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced it put a minus sign in a calculation that called for a plus sign, and that the maps underestimated flooding by 5 feet in Lakeview and 4 feet in Old Metairie, both neighborhoods in New Orleans. After two days of checking and rechecking, the leader of the corps-sponsored Interagency Performance Evaluation Task Force said on November 18 that the numbers in a table in the IPET team's long-awaited risk study were wrong, but the numbers used to make the maps were right. “The maps we put out in June (showing dramatic reductions in flooding in the two areas) are correct,” he said. “I cannot explain yet why those tables have incorrect numbers in them,” he continued. “But the most important thing here is that we are not misinforming the people of New Orleans.”

Source:

http://blog.nola.com/times-picayune/2007/11/corps_mistake_is_no_mistake_af.html

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